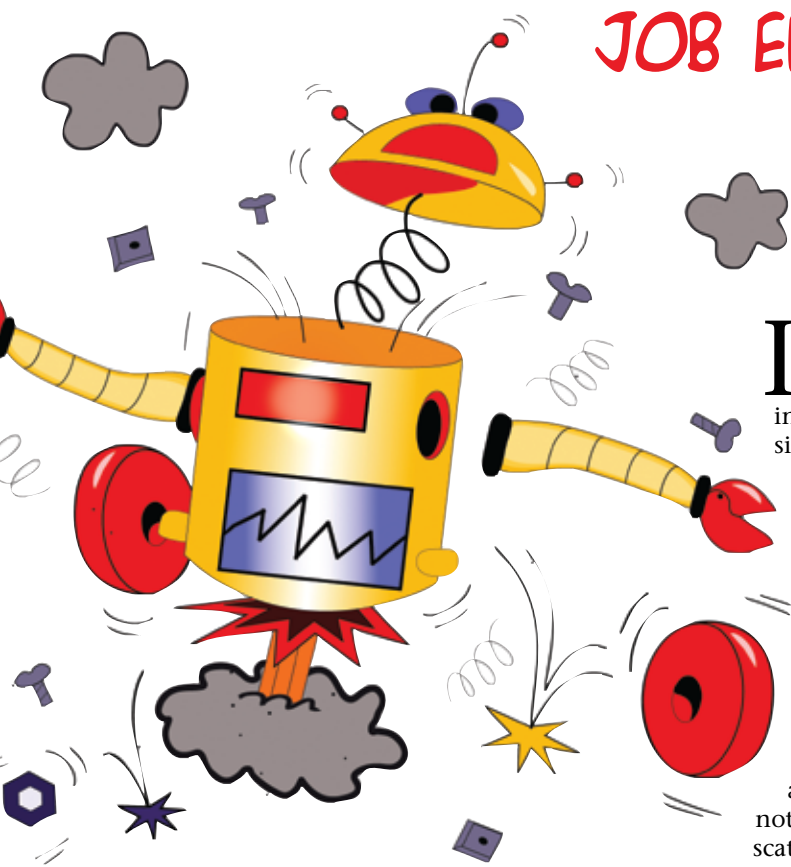


# JOB ENGINE BEGINS TO SPUTTER



THE ONGOING  
RECESSION WILL  
CONTINUE TO  
TAKE ITS TOLL  
IN UTAH AND IN  
NONMETROPOLITAN  
AREAS.

If you haven't heard yet the United States is in a severe recession. The nation has seen job losses since December of 2007, and they have accelerated as the year went on with over 500,000 disappearing in December of 2008 alone. Utah has not been left unscathed by this economic

downturn, with reported decline of 2,600 jobs in the third quarter of 2008—this from a high of nearly 58,000 jobs created in the second quarter of 2006.

Driving the downturn has been a dramatic plunge in construction employment, which has reported job losses statewide during each of the first three quarters of 2008. By third quarter 2008, construction registered a decline of nearly 16,000 jobs.

So, how has this turn of events impacted Utah's non-metropolitan counties? As of the third quarter of 2008, non-metro Utah is still eking out some slight job growth—1.2 percent above third

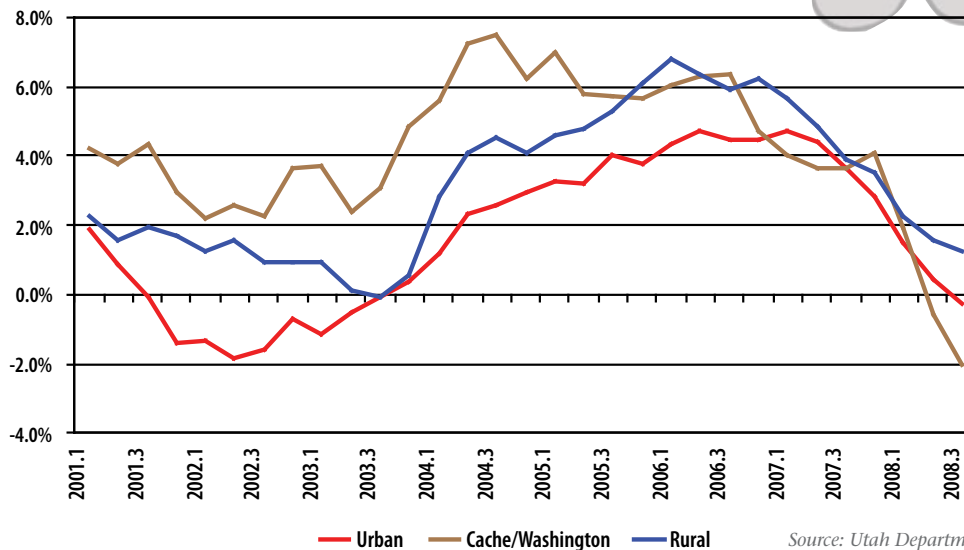
quarter of 2007. Urban counties, on the hand, are showing a slight 0.3 percent decline, while Washington and Cache counties (yep—they are defined as metro areas) report a 2.0 percent job loss. At the same time, non-metropolitan Utah is growing; it too has seen its rate of growth slip from a year ago, when the jobs were increasing at 3.9 percent.

The industries sustaining job growth in nonmetro Utah are mining, agriculture, education, healthcare, professional and business services, recreation and leisure, and government. Trade, transportation and utilities are just barely positive in job creation. However, these gains are largely offset by job losses in construction, manufacturing, and information. This is a major shift from a year ago, when all industries were adding employment except information, which was showing a slight decline in jobs.

The ongoing recession will continue to take its toll in Utah and in nonmetropolitan areas. The third quarter data is the first to show these job losses, and the decline will, more than likely, accelerate in the fourth quarter of 2008. Slowing demand and job losses will likely combine to hinder growth and may force other industries into shedding jobs in the near future. However, it is anticipated that Utah will have weathered the worst of the economic storm towards the latter part of 2009. ●

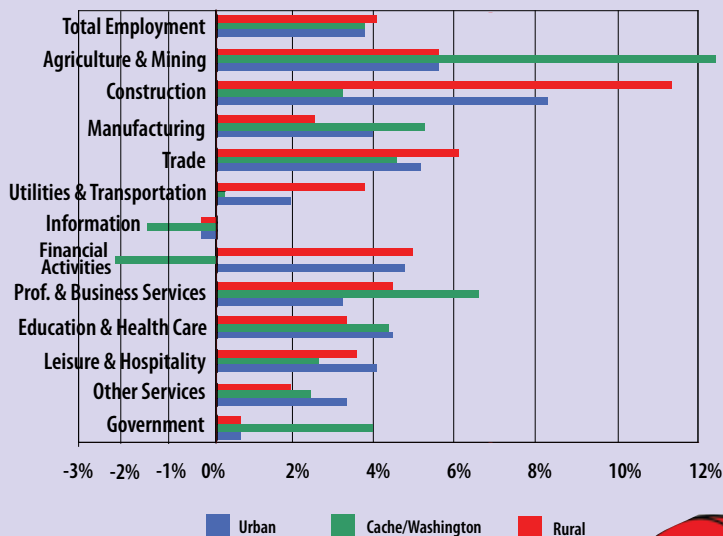
# PERCENT CHANGE IN JOBS BY AREA

2001-2008 (Quarterly)



## 2007

Percent Change in Jobs by Major Industry Group, Third Quarter



## 2008

Percent Change in Jobs by Major Industry Group, Third Quarter

